AUG 1 4 2003

Customer No. 22,852 Attorney Docket No. 3495.0104-03

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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AUG 1 8 2003

In re Application of:

TECH CENTER 1600/290b

Marc ALIZON et al.

Group Art Unit: 1648

Application No.: 09/986,634

Examiner: J. Parkin

Filed: November 9, 2001

For:

NUCLEIC ACID-BASED METHODS FOR THE DETECTION

OF HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS TYPE 2 (HIV-2)

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

In a restriction requirement dated June 16, 2003, the Examiner required restriction under 35 U.S.C. § 121 between Group 1, claims 16-21; Group II, claims 22-25; and Group III, claims 26-29.

Applicants provisionally elect to prosecute Group II, claims 22-25, drawn to a method for preparing a recombinant HIV-2 peptide, classified in class 435, subclass 69.1.

FINNEGAN HENDERSON FARABOW GARRETT & DUNNER LLP

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Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW, GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: August 14, 2003

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